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MC&GWG

31 January 1972

Reviewed by NIMA/DoD

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Formation of the Defense Mapping Agency

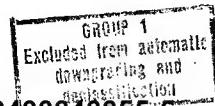
1. Most of the mapping functions of the Department of Defense have recently been consolidated in a single Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) (see attached Directive). This is an event that may affect important CIA map-related activities. The principal DoD units involved were:

- a. Directorate of Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy, DIA (DIAMC).
- b. Army Topographic Command (TOPOCOM).
- c. Aeronautical Chart and Information Center (ACIC).
- d. MC&G functions under the Navy Oceanographer.
- e. MC&G components of the various Service headquarters staffs.
- f. Navy Satellite Geophysics Project.
- g. Inter-American Geodetic Survey (Panama).

The DMA will be headed by a military officer at the O-9 level (3-star), who will report to the SecDef through the JCS.

2. The creation of DMA reflects the inability of DIAMC over a period of 9 years to develop effective centralized management of Defense mapping. DIAMC's main problem was that its program review authority was not backed by funding control. The Services,

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who have bitterly fought the idea of integration, thus retained considerable independence with attendant redundancies. A task force in 1970 recommended the establishment of a single mapping agency in DoD, but continued Service hostility prevented action from being taken. In 1971, however, the task force recommendation was emphatically echoed in a detailed OMB study undertaken by [redacted] and after considerably more pulling and hauling by the Services the present directive was promulgated.

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3. DMA's work will not be easy. The Services managed to retain control of their topographic battalions (field ground survey) and reconnaissance technical units (airborne survey), as well as MC&G work in RDT&E matters (research, development, technology, and engineering). These functions can be used to build up MC&G operations in the Services and erode some of DMA's control. Deep-seated rivalries, especially between ACIC and TOPOCOM, may hamper the teamwork DMA needs to organize its immense tasks effectively. The budget cut to be levied against Defense mapping is now indicated to be \$35 million rather than the \$10 million previously anticipated by DIAMC. Such a cut is certain to affect DMA's ability to get underway smoothly.

4. Our interest in the fortunes of DMA mainly involves the following DDI activities:

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e. Functions of the Mapping, Charting, and Geodesy Working Group of COMIREX (DoD currently provides the Chairman, OBGI the Deputy).

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An additional interest of broad significance -- the mapping budget component of the CIP -- is to be eliminated by transfer of this item to the Defense Comptroller.

5. So far as I am aware, all DDI relationships with the mapping components of DoD headquarters and the Services are presently harmonious and effective. We do not anticipate any important change under DMA. Indeed, there should be a continuation -- possibly a strengthening -- of present relationships because of the new dependence of the mapping community on overhead photography, and the demonstrated mutual benefits of cooperation in such activities as the IMP and automated cartography.

6. Much of DMA's prospects for success depend on the personality and background of the officer selected to be Director, who as yet has not been named. For the present, we propose to watch and not make waves. Those now concerned with planning allocation of intelligence resources might be interested in this memorandum.

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Director  
Basic and Geographic Intelligence

Attachment  
As stated

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